

0C05-367

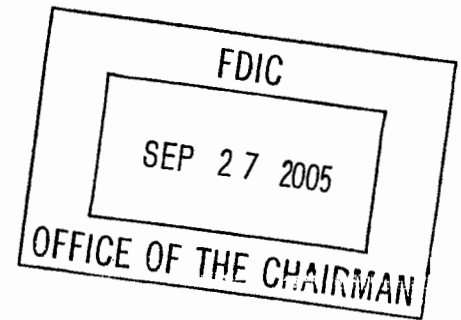


UNITED PRAIRIE BANK

2457 Broadway Ave., P.O. Box 264, Slayton MN 56172-0264 • Ph: 507.836.8587 • Fax: 507.836.8837
Email: slayton@unitedprairiebank.com • Website: www.unitedprairiebank.com
An Affiliate of Farmers State Corporation

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Honorable Donald E. Powell
Chairman
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
550 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20429



Mr. John F. Carter
Regional Director
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
25 Jessie Street at Ecker Square, Suite 2300
San Francisco, California 94105

**Re: Comments Regarding FDIC Application #20051977; Wal-Mart
Application for Insurance and Industrial Bank Charter**

Dear Chairman Powell and Mr. Carter:

I am writing to express my opposition to the Wal-Mart Application for deposit insurance for its pending Utah based ILC.

Enough is enough!

I realize that our country was built on the base of free enterprise, however, bigger is not always better in the heartland.

I currently live and work in southwest Minnesota in an area that is within 30 miles of not one, but two Wal-Mart Superstores. I am saddened to watch our retail businesses struggle to compete. Everyday, we see the numbers of these stores diminish as they can no longer support their family needs and must sell or in most cases, close the business often at a significant financial loss. This family has no other choice but to seek employment elsewhere.

In addition to the loss of the merchants in the local economy, we are also seeing significant impact placed on lower income residents and senior citizens. When the local business ceases to exist, they have no choice but to commute to the large super stores to purchase the essentials. In some cases, they are unable to drive that far and the cost of gasoline is making those trips cost prohibitive.



Now, Wal-Mart continues to try to get into the banking industry. They are already trying to be quasi banks by offering check cashing and the sale of money orders, travelers checks and so forth. However, if they are allowed to get into banking, will they offer credit to these same customers. Will they offer credit and other banking services to these very customers and low income employees of Wal-Mart? Will they offer credit to stores and merchants who might be in direct competition with them? Will they require that suppliers who do business on a wholesale basis also do their banking with them?

Because they already control such a significant part of our economy, allowing them entry into the financial business would appear to create a major concentration of power in the economy. We have already seen the government intervene in certain industries, communications most notably, to break up perceived monopolies and concentrations of economic power.

With that being the case, let's avoid the necessity to break-up a Wal-Mart monopoly but stopping it today and deny this application, keeping commerce and finance separate.

Thank-you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale L. Roemmich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small star-like mark above the final "h".

Dale L. Roemmich
President
United Prairie Bank
PO Box 264
Slayton, MN 56172